LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

#38

INCOMING TELEGRAM

R

Department of State

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 02829 1621062 4258
ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 ARA-06 NSAE-00
SSO-00 L-03 CTME-00 NM-05 INM-06 INRE-00 DEAE-00
/046 W

O 162031Z MAR 82
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1334
INFO AMCONSUL BARRANQUILLA POUCH

GJ
FL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 2829

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PMMC, SNAR, CO
SUBJECT: SEIZURE OF C-119 AIRCRAFT

REF: (A) STATE 066474, (B) BARRANQUILLA 171, (C) BARRANQUILLA 172, (D) BARRANQUILLA 173

1. AIRCRAFT N-4234G WAS SEIZED IN SANTA MARTA MARCH 10, AND BOTH STAR AND AGREGO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH VIOLATION OF DECREE 2144 (CLANDESTINE ENTRY INTO COLOMBIA). IT IS PRESUMED THAT TRAVEL TO COLOMBIA WAS FOR PURPOSE OF RETURNING TO UNITED STATES WITH CARGO OF MARIJUANA. STAR AND AGREGO FACE STRONG POSSIBILITY OF HEAVY FINES. UPON PAYMENT OF FINES THEY WOULD BE EXPELLED FROM COLOMBIA. IF UNABLE TO PAY FINES, THEY WILL BE IMPRISONERED FOR UP TO FIVE YEARS. AIRCRAFT, ALMOST CERTAINLY, WILL BE CONFISCATED AND BECOME THE PROPERTY OF COLOMBIA AIR FORCE.

2. PROSECUTION OF VIOLATION DECREE 2144 IS AN ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE AND SOLE AUTHORITY FOR DECIDING THESE CASES RESTS WITH THE GOVERNOR. HIS DECISION IN THIS CASE WILL PROBABLY BE MADE WITHIN NEXT WEEK, AND ONCE JUDGEMENT HAS BEEN PASSED, REVERSAL WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT.

3. WHILE IT MAY NOT BE LEGALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOC TO RELEASE AIRCRAFT AND/OR CREW TO U.S. AUTHORITIES, WE WOULD HAVE TO MAKE A STRONG CASE IN CONVINCING COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES TO DO SO. DATA CONTAINED REF A CLEARLY INADEQUATE FOR THIS PURPOSE, (WOULD WE HAVE REFUSED MUNITIONS LICENSE HAD COLOMBIA AIR FORCE REQUESTED TO PURCHASE AIRCRAFT?) AND, IN ABSENCE FURTHER INFORMATION INDICATING MAJOR U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST, EMBASSY FEELS ANY EFFORT TO RECOVER AIRCRAFT AND/OR INDIVIDUALS WOULD BE USELESS.

4. FOR BARRANQUILLA: PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO GIVE TIMELY NOTICE OF RETURN TRAVEL SO THAT STAR AND AGREGO MAY BE MET AT PORT OF ENTRY BY U.S. CUSTOMS.
BOYATT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE/A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY E.B. Routh DATE 12/6/83
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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